

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 119

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

ANIMALS. Provides relative to the licensure and regulation of certain farm-raised exotic animals. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 3:3103(A) and (B), 3105, and 3108(B), relative to the licensure and regulation of farm-raised exotic animals; to provide relative to licensees; to authorize the commissioner to adopt rules regarding fencing requirements; to provide for an increase in civil penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 3:3103(A) and (B), 3105, and 3108(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3103. Imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, farm-raised white tail deer and other exotic cervidae; licensing

A. ~~Whoever desires to engage~~ **Any person who engages** in **owning**, raising, selling, ~~or raising and selling~~ **or harvesting** imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, farm-raised white tail deer and other exotic cervidae, for ~~commercial purposes~~ **any purpose**, on ~~breeding~~ farms or ~~propagating~~ preserves of which he is the owner or lessee shall apply to the commissioner for a license to do so.

B. The license shall permit the licensee to **own**, breed and propagate such animals and sell them alive, or sell their parts, and to kill and transport them and sell

their carcasses for food. This Subsection shall not apply to the sale of white tail deer meat.

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§3105. Fencing requirements

~~Any farm or preserve used~~ **The fencing requirements** for **owning or** breeding of imported exotic deer, elk, and antelope pursuant to this Part shall be ~~surrounded by a fence of a height of not less than seven feet of wire or other material of a pattern to be approved by the commissioner~~ **specified pursuant to rule and regulation by the commissioner**. The fencing requirements for farm-raised white tail deer and other exotic cervidae shall be specified pursuant to rule and regulation by the commissioner.

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§3108. Violations; revocation of license

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B. The commissioner may impose a civil penalty of up to one ~~hundred~~ **thousand** dollars for each violation of this Part or of the rules and regulations adopted under this Part. Each day on which a violation occurs shall be a separate offense.

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Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Curry Johnson.

DIGEST

Thompson (SB 119)

Present law requires owners or lessees of breeding farms or propagating preserves engaged in raising, selling, or raising and selling imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, farm-raised white tail deer and other exotic cervidae, for commercial purposes, to apply to the

commissioner of agriculture and forestry for a license.

Proposed law expands current law to require any owner or lessee of farms or preserves engaged in owning, raising, selling, or harvesting imported exotic deer and antelope, elk, farm-raised white tail deer and other exotic cervidae, for any purpose, to apply to the commissioner for a license.

Present law requires that any farm or preserve used for the breeding of imported exotic deer, elk, and antelope be surrounded by a fence of a height of not less than seven feet of wire or other material of a pattern approved by the commissioner.

Proposed law removes the current fencing height requirement and authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules regarding fencing requirements for owners or breeders of imported exotic deer, elk, and antelope.

Present law authorizes the commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to \$100 per violation.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to raise the civil penalty up to \$1,000 per violation.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 3:3103(A) and (B), 3105, and 3108(B))